

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: _____

Project Title: Smith River Water Diversion Replacement Project

Lead Agency: North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

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Phone Number: (707) 576-2679

Project Location: Smith River, Del Norte County

City

County

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The primary purpose of the Project is to replace an existing obsolete above-ground irrigation system (ditch) with a new underground pipeline system. Water withdrawn from the Smith River will irrigate pastures as part of ongoing dairy (cow) operation. Ground disturbance activities and irrigation are limited to APN 103-020-074 (approximately 355 acres). It is anticipated that the Project will reduce water withdrawals from approximately 8,000 gallons per minute (gpm) to approximately 2,500 gpm.

The project consists of the installation of a new intake structure, the installation of up to two centrifugal pumps located on an existing raised wooden platform in the riparian area immediately upslope of the intake structure, and the installation of approximately 4,500 linear feet of underground irrigation lines.

The new underground irrigation lines will be 16-18-inch diameter PVC pipe. The pipe will be placed in a 24-inch-wide and 48-inch-deep trench that is approximately 4,500 feet long.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

- 1) Take of Threatened and Endangered Species. Proposed mitigation: fish-friendly screen.
- 2) Impact to Northern red-legged frog. Proposed mitigation includes frog identification training, clearing vegetation by hand and during dry months, and having a biologist relocate frogs if they are observed.
- 3) Impacts on riparian habitat: active and passive restoration of all disturbed areas.
- 4) Impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources. Proposed mitigation measures include An archaeologist will develop a Tribal and Cultural Resource Monitoring Plan in consultation with Tribal representatives to minimize the risk of potentially significant impacts to tribal resources or buried human remains, that will implement protection and preservation measures outlined in Attachment E of the General Waste Discharge Requirements For Dairies Within the North Coast Region", Order No. R1-2019-0001, Tribal Cultural Resources Mitigation Program", a historical human remains detection canine (HHRDC) survey prior to excavation and a subsequent report informing project implementation to avoid potential impacts to human remains. At least 30 days prior to commencing trenching activities, the Farm, or its Representatives, will notify interested Tribes that trenching and excavation is planned, and to arrange for Tribal Monitors to be on-site during these activities. Work will cease work in the affected area if cultural resources are discovered. Upon discovery, the Farm, or its Representatives, will notify Del Norte County, the Regional Water Board, and other appropriate entities to allow the tribal cultural resources to be evaluated and properly treated if necessary. The Farm will comply with Del Norte County s standard provisions including County ordinance 16.04.31 to mitigate any potential impacts on tribal cultural resources.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

The Tolowa Dee-ni Nation submitted a letter stating their opposition to the Project. The NCRWQCB conducted formal consultation with the Tribe and in response to that consultation worked with the Applicant to revise the Project description. As CEQA Lead Agency, the NCRWQCB outlined mitigation measures in the IS/MND to address Tribal concerns regarding Tribal Cultural Resources and human remains.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

State Lands Commission, California Coastal Commission, California Department of Fish and Wildlife